The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :—

(a) The status of the current usage of agricultural machinery in the states, problems in adoption of improved implements and make recommendation for making more efficient and economic use of the same;

(b) The status of agricultural engineering input with regard to usage of ground water, conservation of soil, soil moisture and soil fertility and measures to further improve the engineering input on these aspects;

(c) The status of utilisation of the renewable resources of energy such as biogas, biomass, solar energy and animal energy etc. in agricultural and rural sector;

(d) Manufacture and supply position of agricultural implements, constraints etc.;

(e) Incentives given to the farmers procurement of farm equipment and other devices;

(f) Impact of mechanisation on productivity, rural income and employment; and

(g) Status of development of labour saving devices for farm women.

Drought in Uttar Pradesh

2083. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whetner it is a fact that a drought like condition prevailed in more than half of the 63 districts in Uttar Pradesh due to scanty rainfall in July this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the worst-hit districts were in the Central and Eastern parts of the State;
Central and Eastern parts of the State;

(d) if so details thereof; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had declared 40 districts as drought affected These districts had received a commulative rainfall of less than 60 per cent of the normal rainfall in the month of July and upto 15th August, 1993.

(c) and (d) The Worst affected districts were Lucknow Hardoi, Raebareilly Kanpurdehat and Unnao in central Uttar Pradesn and Sultanpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur and Sonbhadra in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(e) The steps taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to cope up with the situation included the following:—

(1) Suspension of realisation of land revenue, irrigation dues etc., till 31st October, 1993;

(2) Creation of 296.69 lakn manday at a cost of Rs. 118.01 crores under employment generation programmes;

(3) Installation of handpumps and provision of maximum irrigation facilities to standing crops.

(4) Ensuring availability of essential commodities and diesel through Public Distribution System.

(5) Ensuring availability of Fodder and drinking water facilities to cattle and prevention of cattle diseases;

(6) Distribution of free ration and dhoties to destitutes;

(7) Distribution of gratuitous relief and distress taqavi in critical areas

Help sought by Chief Minister of Maharashtra for Earthquake relief

2084. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: